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The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

April 2003



Chairman's Corner

(and it really is a corner this time)

By Lenny Rasch

I just want to jot a quick note to ask all of you, again, to please setup a monthly donation to the Libertarian Party of Connecticut. An automatic deduction can be easily arranged through our website, LPCT.org, in conjunction with PayPal. A donation of just \$10 per month from a third of our membership would have a big impact on our annual budget. More than \$10 from some of you would help offset those who may not be able to donate at this time.

The LP is the only political party that represents your views on Liberty. We need your support in order to advance your views and promote a Libertarian society. Thank you.

"Lectures in Liberty" Series Opens

The Stamford Libertarian Town Committee has commenced a series of presentations called "Lectures in Liberty" which are open to the public. A fundraiser has helped to underwrite media advertising for the events.

The first lecture was on February 27th. The featured speaker was Bob Graham, author of "April 15th the Fear Factor", as well as a number of other books. Video tapes of the speech are also available. Other presentations are planned. Please contact communications@lpct.org or watch the website for further details.

Libertarian Party Ballot Access Efforts Move Forward

Attempts to pass legislation face many hurdles and have specific milestones that must be reached if the legislation is ever to become law. One of the first milestones is to get a public hearing scheduled. Such a hearing was held on March 21st on several legislative proposals that the Libertarian Party of Connecticut has actively supported.

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut has been working through an organization called VOTERCT, which includes the Connecticut Green, Working Families, and Concerned Citizens parties.

As a result of the combined efforts, a hearing was held on some of the proposed legislation. Libertarian Party members Dawn Barry, Tony Stelik, and Arline Dunlop spoke in support. Mike DeRosa of the Green Party, who has done much of the work on this project, and Jon Green from the Working Families Party, also spoke.

As Mike stated, if we are lucky we may see HB 6087:

"1. If you get 1% of the vote for an individual office you get automatic ballot access in the next election (in other words leave the old law in).

"2. If you get 1% of the vote for Governor, you get ballot access for four years (new language).

"3. If you sign up 1% of all people

registered with a party, you get ballot access as long as you continue to hit your number (new language)."

These three conditions are the three possible way to become a minor party in the new legislation, and full ballot access would then follow the acquisition of that status.

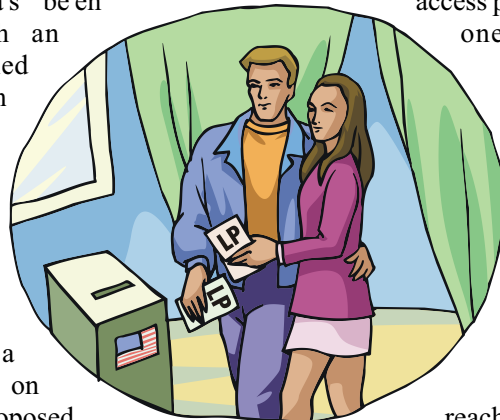
There are two other bills:

HB 5828, which would reduce the signature requirement on a ballot access petition to one-half of one percent.

HB 6099, which would allow a minor party to retain its access status for offices that have been redistricted. (The next generation will thank us for that one)

Please help us reach the next milestone to have this legislation approved by the Government Administration and Elections Committee of the State Legislature. You can call, write, or e-mail your legislators, and/or the members of this committee. The committee list may be accessed at www.voterct.org/cgi-bin/voter.cgi/?email.

While you are there, take a look around the VOTERCT site. It was created and is maintained by Libertarian Party member Jerry Rivard. Thanks goes out to all who have participated in this process to date; now we need your additional support to get this very important legislation passed.



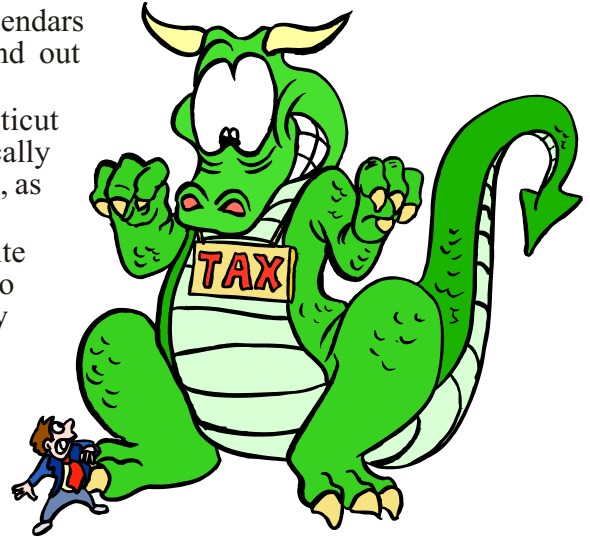
Annual Tax Protest Planned for April 15th

The day of reckoning is nearly upon us. Please mark your calendars and contact Vinnie Marotta (vjmarotta@snet.net) to help us hand out million dollar bills to tax-weary citizens.

This particular activity exposes many hundreds of Connecticut voters to the fact that there is a political party that unequivocally opposes taxation. Volunteers have found most people to be receptive, as these are typically people who have just mailed a tax payment.

Traffic can be rough so it is important to get to the Post Office site before roughly 6 p.m. We have plenty of literature to hand out, so please contact Vinnie so we can get the literature properly distributed.

The Post Office protest is a major activist event for the Libertarian Party. In one evening we contact more people (and they are more receptive) than we do at a three-day fair. Let's make sure that we provide good coverage for Stamford, New Haven and Hartford.



MEETINGS

State Central Committee Meeting and Strategy Session – Saturday, April 12, 2003

The monthly Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee meeting will be held at on April 12th at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Ken Mosher, 8 Bailey Road, Andover, CT. The meeting is open to members and to the public.

Agenda:

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Political Director's Report

Membership Report

Communications Report

Chairman's Report

Old Business:

Ballot Access

Outreach Reorganization

Advertising in college papers

Monthly donations

New Business:

Newsletter and meeting cycle

Nominating Committee

Candidate recruitment

Ballot access legal action

Convention

For Strategy Session

The Future of Activism

Directions:

From Hartford: Rt 84E to Rt 384E

From New Haven: - Rt 91N to Rt 84E to Rt 384E

From Rt 384E: Rt 384E to end, take right fork onto Rt 6E - about 2.5 miles on Rt 6, see sign on left that says "Network" - Bailey Rd is the first right after that sign - 8 Bailey Rd is the first house on the left - There are 2 parking spots at the top of the driveway - others should park on the road - no parking on the grass! - if the walkway is clear, come to the back door, otherwise through the garage and up the basement steps. - (860) 742-8859 - People coming up Rt 2, Rt 395, Rt 32, email Ken at membership@lpct.org for directions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LPCT T-Shirts – Libertarian Party of Connecticut on one side, Free to Choose on the other – Blue with white lettering, just \$15. Specify size M – XX, contact Richard Connelly through political@lpct.org.

LP joins CT Pride this year we will have a booth at both CT Pride fairs – on June 7th in New Haven from 12-6, and on September 13th in Hartford at the Riverfront. Please contact political@lpct.org if you can volunteer to help man this booth.

Linda Rasch will participate in a panel on Feminism, explaining the LP position to be held at Founder's Hall, Central Connecticut State University on April 4th.

Title: The Political Spectrum of Feminism

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Panelists:

Candace de Russy, Ph.D., Independent Women's Forum

Linda Rasch, Secretary, Libertarian Party of CT

2 CCSU faculty members (still not named) to

represent liberal and radical perspectives

Carole Shmurak, Professor Emerita, moderator

If you are satisfied with reading the newsletter on our web site, and do not need a copy mailed to you, please contact membership@lpct.org. If a significant number of people do this, it will save us postage and volunteer time. On request, we will remove you from the newsletter mailing, until and unless you ask us to restore you to it. You will still receive other mailings as they occur, but you will rely on lpct.org to view the newsletter and meeting notices.